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DRAFT DECISION

United Nations Population Fund: Successor support cost arrangements

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 90/26 of 22 June 1990,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on proposed United Nations Population Fund successor arrangements for agency support costs (DP/1991/35 and Corr.1),

Considering the continuing consultations between the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations, including the regional commissions, on operationalizing the successor support cost arrangements, including institutional and implementation aspects as well as the question of the location of the teams,

1. Decides that the successor arrangements for the United Nations Population Fund should:

(a) Provide coordinated, effective and timely support for population programmes and policies in developing countries;

(b) Utilize and maximize, to the extent possible, national and regional capacities in the area of population activities;

(c) Utilize the most appropriate and competitive sources of technical assistance, taking into account fully the relevant capacities of the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide required technical advisory functions in support of country programmes and projects funded by the United Nations Population Fund;

(d) Bring technical services and advice much closer to field-level activities in developing countries as part of the process of appropriate decentralization of the programmes of the United Nations Population Fund;

(e) Facilitate the further assumption by Governments of the management of programmes and projects financed by the United Nations Population Fund, consistent with greater national execution of such programmes;

(f) Continue the practice of cost-sharing between the United Nations Population Fund and agencies of the United Nations system participating in the new successor arrangements;

2. Confirms the clear and full accountability of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Governing Council for the United Nations Population Fund successor support cost arrangements;

3. Endorses the principle of the team approach, as set out in document DP/1991/35, in assisting the representatives/country directors of the United Nations Population Fund in the provision, coordination and management of technical advisory services and backstopping, and acknowledges the necessity of making the appropriate adjustments in operationalizing the team approach in light of consultations referred to in the third preambular paragraph of the present decision;

4. Stresses the desirability of the teams' cooperating with existing regional mechanisms in a manner conducive to the attainment of the objectives set out for the United Nations Population Fund by the Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

5. Takes note of the United Nations decision to participate fully in the United Nations Population Fund successor support cost arrangements, effective 1 January 1993, as set forth herein; and takes note that the arrangement will continue during 1992 on the same basis as currently (13 per cent reimbursement for execution services and the financing of advisory posts previously financed under the intercountry programme);

6. Requests the Executive Director to reflect in her decisions on the number, fields of technical competence and geographical deployment of the team members, the priorities given the United Nations Population Fund by the Governing Council, also taking due account both of the need to provide expertise on socio-cultural factors as well as of the outcome of the consultations referred to in the third preambular paragraph of the present decision, and to submit a progress report to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992);

7. Requests the Executive Director, taking account of the outcome of the consultations referred to in the third preambular paragraph of the present decision, to locate the country programme technical support teams, as far as possible, contiguous with the country offices of the United Nations Population Fund or other existing facilities of the United Nations system in order to

ensure optimal complementarity and to minimize administrative costs, and to report to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) on the actual and envisaged location of the teams;

8. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) more information on the terms of reference of and the reporting and working relationships between the country programme technical support teams, specialists and coordinators at agency headquarters and regional offices, and representatives/country directors of the United Nations Population Fund, including proposals on the determinations of one ultimate decision maker, in order to ensure optimal complementarity between them, to avoid any duplication of work and to ensure clear lines of responsibility;

9. Agrees with the use of an inter-agency task force on the United Nations Population Fund successor support cost arrangements as an advisory body, assisting the Executive Director in, inter alia:

(a) Making preparatory arrangements for the implementation of the new scheme;

(b) Reviewing job descriptions for the technical support services posts and consulting on suitable candidates for these posts;

(c) Monitoring the performance of the new technical support services arrangement including, inter alia, reviewing the work of the teams and of headquarters specialists and coordinators as well as the interaction among the various parties involved and assessing the contribution of the teams to programmes and projects financed by the United Nations Population Fund;

(d) Improving the quality and effectiveness of technical support to country programmes and ensuring harmonization and complementarity of the tasks performed by various technical support services personnel;

10. Authorizes the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to commit an amount of $130.3 million over the four-year period 1992-1995, not exceeding 13.8 per cent of programmable resources, and to allocate these funds for technical support services and for administrative and operational services, based on a compensation arrangement with executing agencies of 7.5 per cent of project expenditures incurred for the implementation of country projects, with the exception of the United Nations in 1992, for which the current level of 13 per cent applies, as noted in paragraph 5;

11. Decides that the use of funds released by a reduction of the costs of administrative and operational services must be approved by the Governing Council;

12. Takes note of the envisaged establishment of 120 country programme technical support team posts as well as 44 specialist and coordinator posts at United Nations agency headquarters, regional offices and regional commissions;

13. Notes that additional funds for mobilizing technical support services and the costs of administrative and operational services for the intercountry programme will be included in respective country (for technical support services), regional and interregional (for administrative and operational services) project budgets, and requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council on a biennial basis, starting in 1993, on the amounts of these funds included in the project budgets;

14. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to arrange for an independent evaluation of the successor support cost arrangements, provide the results of the evaluation and report on the effectiveness of the new arrangements to the Governing Council at its forty-second session (1995), in close collaboration with the concerned agencies.